(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Fire retardant measures can provide only limited relief in somewhat increasing the time available for evacuation of passengers.

(d) to (h) Enhancing fire worthiness of coach is a continuous exercise. Efforts are being made to bring about continual improvement in this area by development of more items of furnishings with fire retardant properties and also by developing additional sources for manufacture and supply of fire retardant materials for coaches.

Gauge conversion between Trichy and Manamadurai

4089. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the broad gauge work between Trichy and Manamadurai would be completed; and

(b) what is the amount allotted for the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Tiruchirappalli-Manamadurai gauge conversion project, work on Tiruchirappalli-Pudukottai-Karaikudi section has already been completed and the balance section is targeted for completion during 2007-08.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 80 crore has been provided for this project during 2007-08.

Freight handling potential

4090. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of optimum freight traffic handling potential of Indian Railways as on March 31, 2007 *vis-a-vis* 2007-08 as target;

(b) the details of enhancements, if any, thereof targeted year-wise till the end of the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans respectively indicating proposed share of Railways in the total freight traffic which the trend of the growth rate of domestic economy is expected to be generating, and their cost estimations and funding patterns; and

(c) the current status of the proposed Delhi-Mumbai freight corridor project indicating the pace of its implementation targeted, if any, for the next five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The target for loading in 2006-07, upto March 31, 2007 was fixed at 726 million tonnes as this was considered to be the potential. The actual loading done in 2006-07 is 728.41 million tonnes. The target for 2007-08 has been fixed at 785 million tonnes based on assessed potential.

(b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan is under finalization.

(c) Freight corridor on Western Route between Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), New Mumbai and Tughlakabad/Dadri is a sanctioned project of Railways. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been formed to implement the project. As per the present estimate, work on the project will be completed in about 5 years after the start of construction of the project.

Train from Chhattisgarh to Amritsar

†4091. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway had assured to introduce 2409/2410 UP train from Chhattisgarh to Amritsar in the year 2005 *vide* their letter No. DRM/R/1003/1966 dated July 21, 2004;

(b) whether it is also a fact that two new platforms have been constructed at Amritsar in the meanwhile due to which problem of terminal station has been solved;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.